



Dr. Stephen Chapman, District E  
President

October 1, 2013

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Mr. Nason "Tony" Authement  
Superintendent

**Rapides Parish School Board ERATE Resolution Concerning the FCC E-Rate  
NPRM, proceeding 13-184**

**WHEREAS** the E-Rate has been of great importance to the Rapides Parish School Board and;

**WHEREAS** the E-Rate has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary for college and career and;

**WHEREAS** E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with the Rapides Parish School Board current and future bandwidth needs and;

**WHEREAS** we know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy and;

**WHEREAS** accesses to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country and;

**WHEREAS** the Rapides Parish School Board use digital learning to personalize learning, provide online classes, meet common core state standards, administer online assessments, and make data driven decisions and;

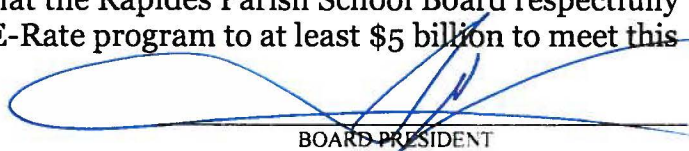
**WHEREAS** the Rapides Parish School Board's network currently is severely limited in keeping up with demand and;

**WHEREAS** the need for a high speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future and;

**WHEREAS** the E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America and;

**WHEREAS** in the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries to the Universal Services Administrative Corporation (USAC) totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RSOLVED** that the Rapides Parish School Board respectfully urges the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand.



BOARD PRESIDENT

Wilton Barrios, Jr., District A • Steve Berry, District B • Julie McConathy, District C • Janet H. Dixon, District D  
John Allen, District F • Keith Breazeale, District G • Darrell Rodriguez, District H • Pam Webb, District I